

**BOOK REVIEW****CINJEL, Nandes Dickson**Department of Public Administration, Faculty of Management Sciences, Federal University Wukari,  
Taraba State**Title:** Clash of Identities State, Society and Ethno-Religious Conflict in Northern Nigeria**Author:** Hussaini Abdu**Publisher:** Devreach Publishers Ltd.**ISBN:** 978-978-907-948-3. 286pg, N5000**Place of Publishing:** Kaduna.**Review**

Clash of identities, state, society and ethno-religious conflict in Northern Nigeria is a book written by Hussaini Abdu. The book is segmented along eight (8) parts and these are: cover page, the fly page, title page, copyright page, contents (list of tables, list of abbreviation, preface, acknowledgement, etc.), references, selected bibliography and index. The book has 8 parts with 8 chapters. The book has 283 pages and several reputable authorities have written a blurb for the book - *Y.Z Ya'u, Sam Egwu, Dung Pam Sha*, among others. Hussaini Abdu is a Professor of Political Science. He is the country Director of Action Aid Nigeria and the Africa Regional Governance Coordinator of Action Aid International. He holds a PhD in Political Science and taught Political Science in Nigeria Defence Academy, Kaduna. The author has many publications in books and academic journals. His interest has been on democracy and governance, civil society, poverty and identity politics.

The book is written in a concise and precise manner. The narration and grammatical presentation were simple and logical. Twenty-two (22) tables with factual information were used to buttress points. List of abbreviation and acronyms were provided at the preliminary pages to ease comprehension. Using the experiences of Kaduna State, *clash of identities: state, society and ethno-religious conflicts* examines the context and dynamics of ethno-religious conflicts in northern Nigeria from a historical and political economic perspective. The author critically explores the role of the state and society in generating fissiparous identities and divisions and how such issues have resulted in intermittent and in some cases protracted clashes. The book, which also provides strong recommendations on how these conflicts could be managed, will be useful to policy makers, academics, students of political economy, development activities, conflict managers, journalists and general purpose readers. The author tried as much as possible to be neutral; he did not take side. He was objective and has used the lens of scholars to implore the myth surrounding identity-based conflicts in the erstwhile northern Nigeria.

The book started with an introduction and it provides general background on how the work looks in the text. In the chapters, basic concepts like state, identity, conflict, ethnicity and religion were

conceptualized. Part one was tagged: “Genesis – the Making of Ethno-Religious Communities”. The chapter contains components such as – the making of contemporary Kaduna State, identity and identity construction, and the state in post-colonial Nigeria. Also, in the part, there is state, economy and conflicts where aspect such as – the state, economy and agrarian question, SAP, resource distribution, democratization and citizenship were examined. The second part was titled; “Manifestation and Dynamics of the Conflict”. This part contains conflict in rural Kaduna, conflict in urban Kaduna and media of conflict. Part three which is the last and concluding part contains 2 chapters and these are: State and conflict management and building inter-ethnic and religious harmony.

The Clash of Identities probes into the thorny dynamics of identity politics in Nigeria, which historically has played itself out in the contexts for space, resources and access to power between and within communities. Several scholars have written on identity politics but their approach and conclusion were mostly general, subjective and too emotional. What makes this work unique is the objectivity and the analytical skill which drive home the points and address the needs of the individuals, communities and indeed the wider Nigerian society. It is an intelligent work and a compelling read for those committed to such agenda.

Nevertheless, I persevered and, all in all, I can highly recommend the book, Clash of Identities: State, Society and Ethno-Religious Conflict in Northern Nigeria. I challenge you to remain indifferent after reading this exceptional book.

### References

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